

May 21, 2007

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John Boehner
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senator Reid, Senator McConnell, Speaker Pelosi and Representative Boehner:

We are writing to request that the U.S. Congress initiate a bi-partisan inquiry into escalating gas prices in the United States. We are particularly concerned about recent spikes that have seen prices soar in every state across the country.

The reasons for these massive increases do not appear to be tied to any recent changes in geo-political events or a weather crisis. While there have been reports regarding problems with refinery capability, even this explanation raises more questions than answers. Reliability, capacity and supply issues have been at the forefront of federal energy policy for years. It is difficult to understand how oil companies can be making record profits each quarter without making capital investments in refineries that would address reliability issues.

Families and businesses across the nation are straining under these uncontrollable prices. The economies of our states – as well as the national economy – are likely to suffer because of these continually spiraling prices. We are all affected by rising gas prices and it is not yet Memorial Day, the traditional start of the summer driving season. Many industry-based and other observers are predicting that gas prices may hit \$4 a gallon by late summer.

We believe Congress has the authority and the unique ability to conduct a thorough investigation into gas pricing. This is not a simple “supply and demand” issue because gasoline is not a simple commodity. It is a basic necessity. With specific regard to the refinery issue, legislative or regulatory remedies may need to be explored. It is our hope that Congress can help obtain and provide answers to the circumstances and issues pertaining to these unexplained price escalations.

Sincerely,



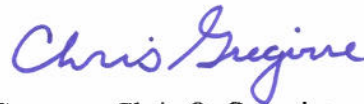
Governor M. Jodi Rell
Connecticut



Governor Kathleen Sebelius
Kansas



Governor Charlie Crist
Florida



Governor Chris O. Gregoire
Washington



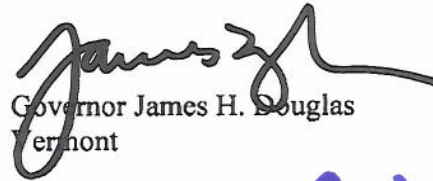
Governor Theodore R. Kulongoski
Oregon



Governor John Baldacci
Maine



Governor M. Michael Rounds
South Dakota



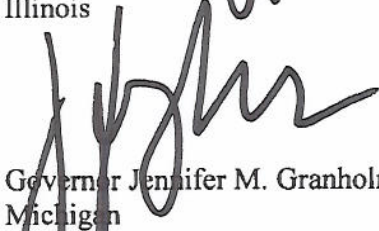
Governor James H. Douglas
Vermont



Governor Rod Blagojevich
Illinois



Governor Bill Richardson
New Mexico



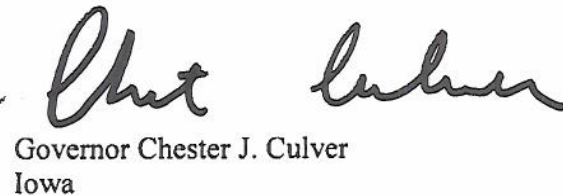
Governor Jennifer M. Granholm
Michigan



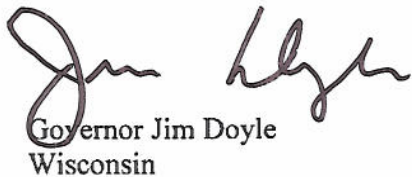
Governor John Hoeven
North Dakota



Governor Ruth Ann Minner
Delaware



Governor Chester J. Culver
Iowa



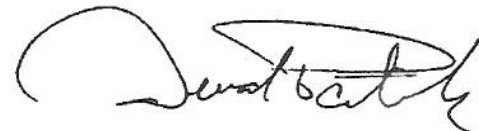
Governor Jim Doyle
Wisconsin



Governor Mike Beebe
Arkansas



Governor Jon Huntsman Jr.
Utah



Governor Deval Patrick
Massachusetts



Governor Jon S. Corzine
New Jersey



Governor Martin O'Malley
Maryland



Governor Janet Napolitano
Arizona



Governor John P. deJongh, Jr
U.S. Virgin Islands